

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1 and 5-9 have been amended, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 14 and 15 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Takano, U.S. Patent 4,259,557. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Takano. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Takano in view of Mattes et al., U.S. Patent 5,712,611 This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to Takano discloses a rectangular electric contact for a switch. This is different from the silver contact of the present invention, which is pressed and filled into the fastening structure. Independent claim 1 includes certain features of this fabrication method. In the Office Action, the Examiner has alleged that such features are well known designs. However, if such is so well known, the Examiner should cite some prior art showing this feature. To merely assume away an Applicant's invention by saying it is a matter of "engineering design choice" is a hindsight reconstruction of the Applicant's invention.

The present invention provides for a fastening section which has at least a first fixing zone and a second fixing zone. A bucking end is adjacent to the fixing zone to increase the retaining force between the silver contact and the conductive blade. Therefore, the silver contact will not easily break loose. To achieve such a characteristic in the prior art, the Takano reference provides for extended portions 4a and 4b, relative to the base piece 5. These pieces extend

beyond the surface of the base piece 5, as seen in Figs. 4-10. As dependent claim 14 brings out, the silver contact is flush with both the upper and lower surfaces of the conductive blade.

Nonetheless, independent claim 1 sets forth an arrangement which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. The secondary reference to Mattes et al. does not overcome the noted deficiencies of the Takano reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

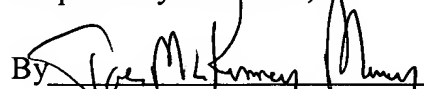
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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